

17 MAY 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: Robert W. Gambino  
Director of Security

SUBJECT: Annual DDA/DDS&T R&D Planning Cycle ☐

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1. Action Requested: It is requested that you approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 4. ☐

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2. Background: I feel that it is of primary importance that this Office keep abreast of and, hopefully, sometimes ahead of the current state-of-the-art in such areas as polygraph, audio countermeasures, computer security and document control. To accomplish this, we must rely in large measure upon the DDS&T where our proposed research projects find themselves in competition with all other Agency components for the R&D dollar. Because of this competition, and particularly in a time of shrinking resources, it is very important that we communicate clearly and on a timely basis with the DDS&T as the annual R&D Planning Cycle proceeds. Oftentimes, the terminology and structuring of the DDS&T R&D memos addressed to you are confusing and require technical clarification. Programs are sometimes attributed to the wrong component. Worst of all, programs disappear without any satisfactory explanation, leaving me with a deep concern that we are not really communicating with one another as the R&D Cycle progresses. ☐

3. Staff Position: It is believed that the problems being faced by the Office of Security in the R&D area are also experienced by the other Offices of the DDA. If this assumption is correct, then better control over the R&D process should be attempted. In this connection, it is felt that a DDA R&D panel comprised of three technically qualified officers from the Offices of Communications, Data Processing and Security should be established. These officers would seek to have direct access to the DDS&T Planning Staff on behalf of the

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DDA. They could establish intra-DDA prioritization by agreement among themselves, coming to you only when a serious conflict arises. They could ask the right questions in a timely manner and speed delivery of DDS&T-generated R&D papers to the proper respondents. They would be able to recognize which programs go to which DDA component and keep abreast of the funding allocated to each program as the R&D Cycle unfolds in order to bring pressure to bear in those cases where our priorities are being overlooked or turned upside down and to enlist your aid whenever necessary. The R&D panel could be chaired on a rotating basis among the three Office technical representatives. [ ]

Instead of a panel, another option would be to consider appointing a dedicated technical officer to your staff who would interface directly with the DDS&T Planning Staff. It appears, however, that a panel system would ensure broader participation and still enable full use of the technical expertise of all three panel officers in other pursuits within their respective Offices. [ ]

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4. Recommendation: I recommend that you establish a DDA R&D panel comprised of three technically qualified officers from the Offices of Communications, Data Processing and Security. I am prepared to nominate Mr. [ ] Chief of the Engineering and Planning Branch, Technical Security Division, as the representative from this Office. [ ]

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[ ]  
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CONCURRENCE:

/s/ Bruce T. Johnson

21 MAY 1979

Bruce T. Johnson  
Director of Data Processing

Date

Director of Communications

22 MAY 1979

Date

APPROVE

Acting Deputy Director for Administration

DISAPPROVED:

Acting Deputy Director for Administration

DATE: 23 MAY 1979

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Para 3 revised: DD/P&M/ ba(15May79)

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